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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord, who governs the minds of all who are called to serve You and country, guide our lawmakers to fulfill Your purposes. When it is difficult to see the path ahead, give them the wisdom to trust the unfolding of Your powerful providence. Empower them to resist the sins that bring dishonor as they seek to live for Your glory.

Lord, unite them to bear the burdens which are laid upon them during these challenging days. As they remember their accountability to You, inspire them to be good stewards of Your bounty. And, Lord, bless Ukraine.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 24, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK,

a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Dara Lindenbaum, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2027.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

#### INFANT FORMULA SHORTAGE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the hardest job in America during the pandemic certainly fell on the shoulders of our healthcare heroes. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the sacrifice and integrity they showed during this challenge.

But I want to add another category and that would be the category of parents, particularly of newborn infants during the pandemic. They have dealt with school closures and COVID lockdowns, rising prices at the check-

out counter, and for parents with kids under the age of 5, the wait for COVID vaccine has been excruciating.

Now parents throughout the country are facing another burden—of all things—the availability and cost of infant formula. Since the beginning of this year, the supply of infant formula in America has been reduced by nearly half—half. The obvious question is, Why?

In February, the Food and Drug Administration discovered that Abbott's Michigan factory, which produces Similac, a well-known infant formula to many parents, may have been the source of a bacteria outbreak. That outbreak sent four infants to the hospital. Tragically, it claimed the lives of two. As a result, the factory in Michigan was shut down.

That shutdown and larger supply chain issues has caused a shortage and caused panic among many families. At this very moment, parents are frantically scouring the internet for formula, driving for hours from store to store, and paying obscene prices to shady sellers exploiting this desperate situation.

Some of the parents in Illinois have written to me. One of them is Jennifer Sendeski from Deer Park, IL. Eight months ago, she gave birth to her son. In her words, it was a moment of "sheer joy, love and excitement." Soon after she gave birth, Jennifer joined millions of other women in supplementing her son's diet with formula.

Jennifer wrote to me that "in the last several months we have been fighting an uphill battle to find formula . . . what would have once cost . . . \$13 for 12 [ounce] can of powdered formula now sells for \$40 . . . if you can find it on the shelves."

Jennifer describes her struggle to find that formula as a "nightmare." She is not alone. Another mother named Jennifer, who lives in Lake Zurich, IL, said the formula shortage is "becoming dire," in her words.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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